

# Members-at-Large NEWSLETTER

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National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

June 2008

Editor Joanne Bedlek-Anslow

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## Rebecca Weber MAL Award Winner

Rebecca Weber, a student at Southeastern Louisiana University, is the recipient of the 2008 MAL Educational Re-entry Award. The award is given to a woman who is returning to school after an extended absence and has excellent academic potential.

Rebecca is a non-traditional student returning to school after a 6-year hiatus. Her time away from the classroom proved to her that in order to move ahead and have the life she wanted for her and her family she needed to return to school to obtain a college degree. Both she and her husband returned to school full-time in the fall of 2005. They balance their educational commitments and care of their 4 year-old daughter with volunteerism and extra curricular activities.

Rebecca started as a secondary science education major; however, after a few chemistry courses, she knew that she had a real passion for chemistry and was "hooked." She changed her major to chemistry with a minor in physics and hopes to continue her studies in graduate school – emphasis in physical chemistry. She says that, "there is nothing more interesting to me than being able to take a look at everything surrounding me and be able to describe why it acts the way it does, how it will react if brought into contact with another material, and what is happening on a quantum or atomic level as a reaction is taking place." Her love of learning extends to her desire to discover new concepts and explain them to others in such a way as to broaden their learning and interest in the material.

Outside of the classroom, Rebecca tutors chemistry and is involved in undergraduate research. She has chosen a research position in a computational lab versus a higher paying off-campus job. Rebecca has published and presented her research and has won several departmental awards. She also

volunteers as a science fair judge, Science Olympiad coordinator, speaker to Girl Scouts about science and career choices and is president of SCUMS, the chemistry club for Southeastern Louisiana University students. She is a student affiliate of the ACS and local chapter of Iota Sigma Pi, a member of the Society for Physics Students, Society for Chemistry Undergraduates Majoring in Chemistry, the National Society for Collegiate Scholars, and Gamma Beta Phi.

Her professors describe Rebecca as dynamic, talented, and a noteworthy student of chemistry and an outstanding representative of Iota Sigma Pi. Rebecca faces greater challenges than most students, yet she continues to excel. Her academic advisor is confident that Rebecca will complete her BS in chemistry and achieve a PhD.

## Thanks to the MAL Award Committee

Committee members included: Carol Brevett, MariJean Eggen, Pat Fish, Molly Hoke, Brenda Wingard-Haynes, and the chairwoman was Katherine Sukalski. Your commitment to serving IΣΠ is much appreciated!

## Donate to the MAL Award Fund!

You should notice the envelope in this issue of the MAL Newsletter in support of our MAL Award. It's a great way to support promising students, really neat ladies, and Iota Sigma Pi! Any amount is welcome and tax deductible. Please make your check payable to Iota Sigma Pi, and please put MAL Scholarship Fund on the memo line. The check can be mailed to Donna A. Iannotti, MAL Treasurer. Thanks to generous donations, we were once again able to present a monetary award for \$1500 this year. Congratulations to the winner and best wishes to our excellent applicants.

## MAL Listserv

Effective June 30th, the MAL Listserv will no longer be accessible from the Whitman servers. As of now, there are only fifteen of us subscribed. I have not received interest from any of the MAL membership on if we should keep the listserv, and if we do, how/who will maintain it. Is there anyone that is interested in hosting the listserv? Please let me know as soon as possible ([drjba2000@yahoo.com](mailto:drjba2000@yahoo.com)).

## Websites

For the national IEP

<http://www.iotasigmapi.info/>

For MALs

<http://web.centre.edu/muzyka/ispmal>

### **MAL Webmaster Position**

Jennifer Muzyka has been our webmaster and has done a superb job. However, she is preparing for a sabbatical this summer and needs to resign her position, so she can be more focused on her work. She will continue serving as webmaster until we can locate a replacement for her. She'll provide all the files on a CD to the new webmaster. We would like to relieve Jennifer of her duties as soon as possible, so she can focus on preparing for her sabbatical. If you're interested in the position, please let me know as soon as possible ([drjba2000@yahoo.com](mailto:drjba2000@yahoo.com)).

### **Member Get-a-Member Campaign**

As MALs, we have a policy in place for nominating new members. If you get two new members to join within a year, you are eligible for free IEP merchandise from the supplies coordinator. National council lets you use the honor system, so when you've found two people tell the supplies coordinator, and she will send you something. The supplies coordinator is

### **Reiko M. Simmons**

Department of Chemistry, Room 301  
Cleveland State University  
2121 Euclid  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
216-687-3969  
216-687-9298(fax)  
[r.simmons@csuohio.edu](mailto:r.simmons@csuohio.edu)

Look around you. Are there colleagues, subordinates, friends or students who qualify? Qualifications for membership can be found on our website. Remember, students do not need to be majoring in chemistry but must have taken the minimum amount of chemistry courses (see the undergraduate qualifications). Professionals also just need to meet the minimum number of chemistry credits; they do not need to be working as Chemists. Institutions and Chemists in the area must be included.

## In the News...

### **Postdoc Participation of Science, Engineering, and Health Doctorate Recipients**

Increasing percentages of new Ph.D.'s in science, engineering and health are moving to postdoctoral fellowships, according to new data from the National Science Foundation. About 45 percent of recent recipients of doctorates in 2006 had completed or were participating in a postdoc, the study found, up from 41 percent in 1995 and 31 percent 25 years ago. The median length of the fellowships has of late been holding constant at two years.

### **2006 Scientist and Engineer Unemployment Rate Drops to a Record Low**

The National Science Foundation has released data found in the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT) that shows a decline in the overall unemployment rate of scientists and engineers.

### **My Career Path**

We are honored to again spotlight one of our members. The Career Path spotlight shines on Peggy Mayfield Wilson. In her own words...this is a summary of a talk for a management class at a local university and was subsequently featured as an article in one of the Texas American Chemical Society local section newsletters.

### **One Woman Chemist's Experience with Gender Discrimination**

Like freedom, gender equality requires constant vigilance. I have watched our citizen freedoms being nibbled away by incremental government regulations over my 80 years of life.

I also see hard-line cultural segments attempting to reverse the gains in gender equality of the past 35 years. Most of today's women professionals have not experienced the intensity of gender discrimination that impeded my generation. With "know thy enemy" as my goal, here are a few of my experiences.

Freshman year, 1944: Wanting to change my major from chemistry to chemical engineering, I walked 8 steps into the engineering building and was pushed

out backwards. Girls were not allowed in the building.

Sophomore year: Counselor approval was required for course registration. I wanted "Theory of Complex Variables." He insisted on "Arithmetic for Households." After debate, he accepted my choice when I promised to forge his signature.

Junior year: Elected to membership in Iota Sigma Pi. Girls were not allowed in the men's honor society.

B. S. in Chemistry with Honors: No employer would interview me. No job.

Graduate school: A professor of psychology conducting research at a distant university sent survey questions to me, among others. I returned mine promptly. He replied quickly with a stinging rebuke for trying to deceive him that I was a woman. He knew perfectly well that no woman would enjoy carpentry and chemical plant process design.

Ph.D. in chemistry (1952): Few interviews and very few replies, all saying "No interest". A southern university invited me to visit and consider a faculty position. They offered me a teaching position at a nearby women's college I'd never heard of until then. In one breath, the chemistry chairman said, "We'll pay you \$235 a month and, if you were a man, we'd pay \$100 more". I declined, saying I could make more than that on my parents' farm.

Post doctoral fellowship: Eternal thanks go to my faculty at the University of Texas. (The Austin campus was the only UT then.) They offered me a year's fellowship - at \$411 per month! At the end of the year, few interviews, no job offers. One morning, running as usual, I rushed out of my office and body slammed the recruiter for Mobil Oil Corporation. Instead of an apology, my mouth yelled, "Why in the \$#%& didn't you reply to my application last year?" At 7:00 the next morning, he phoned with an invitation to visit Mobil's lab in Dallas the next day. I did and accepted their offer of \$625 per month, which I learned many years later was the same pay as for men with the same training as mine.

Mobil Research and Development Corporation (1953-1989): Mobil was an honorable company with strong integrity. Except for two male chauvinist managers in my tenure, it was a superb place to work. I was Mobil Oil's first woman Ph.D. and, eventually, its first woman manager of a research group. At least 99% of my male co-workers and managers were strongly supportive and I owe them much for helping me learn how to conduct myself and how to perform my job in an old-line male company. Although my career was hindered by the chauvinists and our nation's culture of the time, I still think this was the best job I could have had.

Now: I joy in seeing the names of women presidents of universities and major corporations.

Future: Stealth discrimination continues. Some men and some women, who protect their subservient status quo, will always generate obstacles. Each generation of women professionals must watchfully protect and build opportunities for their successors.

We congratulate Dr. Wilson on her many career and personal achievements and thank her for her contribution to our newsletter.

Where have you taken your career? How did you get to where you are now? I am looking for stories from our MAL's about the paths that took them to where they are now. Whatever your story, I would like you to share your history with the other MAL's. Please send your contributions to my email address, [drjba2000@yahoo.com](mailto:drjba2000@yahoo.com), subject My Career Path, and I will include the responses in our next newsletter. Thank you ☺

## Chapter News

### Tellurium Chapter

The event, Your Career in Chemistry: Thinking Outside the Beaker, was held on Saturday, February 23rd from 8:30am – 5:00pm, at the University of Texas at Austin, Welch Hall. The event was open to the public with participants ranging from undergraduate students to graduate students to local chemistry professionals. About 190 people pre-registered for the event online and an estimated 150 people actually attended the event. About 87% of the RSVP's were from UT students. There were

140 requests for resume or academic CV reviews and 56 requests for mock interviews. We had enough professional volunteers to accommodate about half of these requests.

The event started with breakfast provided for all participants at 8:30am followed by the keynote lecture provided by E. Ann Nalley, PhD, immediate past president of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Nalley provided a lecture entitled "Chemistry: The Career Which will Help You Become the Swan You Want to Be." Her lecture lasted about 30 minutes including a question and answer session. After the keynote lecture, the event continued with a career workshop, career panels, mock interviews and CV/resume reviews. The career workshop from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. was presented by Warren Bush, PhD, from the American Chemical Society. During the career workshop, career panels were being held simultaneously. A panel consisting of representatives from government, law and environmental careers was held from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Speakers on this panel included John Golden, PhD/JD a professor of law at UT Austin, Mary Satterfield, PhD, from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Melissa Tucker from URS Corp., Roshani Cowmeadow, PhD, from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Mary Jane O'Rourke, PhD, from NASA. A panel with members representing careers in academia was held from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This panel consisted of Jennifer Brodbelt, PhD, a professor at UT Austin, Linette Watkins, PhD, an associate professor at Texas State University, Laura Hunsicker-Wang, PhD, an assistant professor at Trinity University, Dennis McKearin, PhD, a professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center, J.D. Lewis, PhD, a professor at St. Edward's University, and Emily D. Niemeyer, PhD, an associate professor at Southwestern University. A panel representing careers in secondary education was held from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This panel included Matt Sanderson from Brentwood Christian School, a private school, Robin Ritter from Cedar Park High School, a public school, Natalie Wieland a graduate of the UTeach program now teaching at Round Rock High School, a public school, and Linda Lippe, an elementary science coordinator for Leander ISD.

Following these morning panels, lunch was served from 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch provided an opportunity for participants of the event to network with panel representatives. During lunch and most of the day, there was an exhibit hall with exhibits representing a range of companies and organizations: Boeringer Ingelheim, Freescale, L'Oreal, Pfizer, URS Corp., UTeach, UT Southwestern MD/PhD program, UT ACS Student Affiliates, Central Texas ACS, Iota Sigma Pi/Women in Chemistry, ACS Career Services, UT Natural Sciences Career Services, and Oxford University Press.

After lunch, the final career panels of the day took place and mock interviews and CV/resume reviews continued. From 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. a panel representing jobs in industry was conducted. Speakers on the panel included Terri Bright Hettinger, PhD, a career industrial chemist, Michelle Luc from the Hair Color Division of L'Oreal Paris, Deborah Hess, PhD, with experience with the Evans Analytical Group and Freescale Semiconductor, Laura Pressley, PhD, from Freescale Semiconductor, Usha Patel from Boehringer Ingelheim, and Dave Jurbergs, PhD, from Bayer Material Science LLC. From 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. a panel with representatives from "alternative" careers in chemistry was held. This panel included Lisa Balbes, PhD, author of "Nontraditional Careers in Chemistry" and founder of Balbes Consultants, Ellen Prediger, PhD, Senior Manager of Technical Publications at Applied Biosystems, Aniko Bezur, PhD, art conservationist for the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, TX, Renee D. Hawkins a forensic scientist with the Texas Department of Public Safety, Luci Nix a Pfizer Ambassador, and Jeff Young, a beer brewer.

The final panel of the day was a panel representing many women in the field of science. The panel lasted from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and speakers included Linda Reichl, PhD, founder of Women in Natural Science at UT Austin, E. Ann Nalley, PhD, professor of chemistry at Cameron University and immediate past president of the ACS, Laura Pressley, PhD, Laura Hunsicker-Wang, PhD, and Virginia Deal, one of the first women to take on a career in chemistry working for Shell Oil Research.

Following the panel on women in science, a closing reception was held from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for all participants in the event. After the event, all speakers were invited to dinner at a local restaurant, Santa Rita's, with event coordinators and members of the Central Texas ACS chapter.

Attendance at the career day was estimated to be approximately 150. An evaluation was created on Survey Monkey and mailed to everyone who RSVP'd. Most of those who responded to the survey indicated that listening to the panels and networking with the speakers was the best part of the day for them. The second most valuable experience they identified was having a resume or CV review, or mock interview. In addition, a few participants sent emails after the event to express their gratitude and support for the event.

Submitted by Amanda E. Hargrove

### **General News**

*June 26-29, 2008 in Cincinnati, OH/Covington, KY*

#### **The 29th National Triennial Convention Knowledge is Flowing**

Look for updates from the convention in the next MAL Newsletter and the IOTAN.

### **Member News**

**Elizabeth Weisburger (MAL)** writes...I gave a presentation on "A Little Bit of Toxicology" for a group of senior citizens in the Rockville/West Bethesda, MD area in December 2007. I was also named a lifetime member of the Paracelsus Circle of the Society of Toxicology for establishing a scholarship for graduate students in toxicology.

**Julie Dionne, 2007 MAL REA Winner** writes that I have been working this past year for a breast specialist (diseases of the breast), LaNette Smith, M.D. This has been an incredible hands-on experience for the inner workings of a physician's office. This is an extremely busy doctor's office as Dr. Smith sees an incredible number of patients in a day. This has been quite the logistical challenge as mammograms must be obtained and returned for each patient's visit as well as the many other facets

of support needed for efficient running of the practice. Since arriving at Breast Surgery of Tulsa a year ago, I have been promoted to Administrative Supervisor. I am responsible for the oversight of the front office and play a supervisory role in the clinical area as well. What an incredible opportunity I have been given and am deeply appreciative for this.

I have also had the privilege of assisting a physician, Nathan Tillotson, D.O., while he was performing surgery to include C-sections, tubal ligations, a hysterectomy and cyst removals. What an awesome, inspiring experience! I've also spent a good amount of time applying for medical school entry for the fall. I have been invited to interview and have been placed on the wait list at Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (this is my first choice!). I am expecting good things for this fall. Thank you again for selecting my application last year!!

**Joanne Bedlek-Anslow, MAL National Coordinator** writes...Alas, my term as MAL Coordinator is coming to an end. Due to family and work demands, I will not be continuing my service to ISP. However, I would like to thank all of the people that have helped me these last three years.

It is hard to believe how quickly the time has passed. I appreciate all of the help I received from National Council, our past MAL Coordinator, Kathryn Thomasson, Donna Iannotti, Jennifer Muzyka, Ruth Russo, and the many MAL members who contributed to the newsletter and served on the award committee. You have all graciously met my deadlines and worked around my not so consistent balance of life, family, and work. It has been an amazing experience, and one I will always treasure. I know that I am leaving the MAL membership in extraordinary hands, and I look forward to this summer's convention. Peace

### **Daily Joke**

Why did the chicken cross the road?

DR. PHIL: The problem we have here is that this chicken won't realize that he must first deal with the problem on 'THIS' side of the road before it goes after the problem on the 'OTHER

SIDE' of the road. What we need to do is help him realize how stupid he's acting by not taking on his 'CURRENT' problems before adding 'NEW' problems.

ANDERSON COOPER - CNN: We have reason to believe there is a chicken, but we have not yet been allowed to have access to the other side of the road.

DR SEUSS: Did the chicken cross the road? Did he cross it with a toad? Yes, the chicken crossed the road, but why it crossed I've not been told.

GRANDPA: In my day we didn't ask why the chicken crossed the road. Somebody told us the chicken crossed the road, and that was good enough.

BARBARA WALTERS: Isn't that interesting? In a few moments, we will be listening to the chicken tell, for the first time, the heart warming story of how it experienced a serious case of molting, and went on to accomplish its life long dream of crossing the road.

JOHN LENNON: Imagine all the chickens in the world crossing roads together, in peace.

ARISTOTLE: It is the nature of chickens to cross the road.

BILL GATES: I have just released eChicken2007, which will not only cross roads, but will lay eggs, file your important documents, and balance your check book. Internet Explorer is an integral part of eChicken. This new platform is much more stable and will never cra...#@&&^(C% ..... reboot.

ALBERT EINSTEIN: Did the chicken really cross the road, or did the road move beneath the chicken? Define chicken?

### **Newsletter Delivery!!!!**

Do you wish to receive the newsletter electronically rather than by the traditional paper route? If so, please send me an email at [drjba2000@yahoo.com](mailto:drjba2000@yahoo.com) with **ISP electronic newsletter** in the heading. I will put together a list of people and send you the newsletter electronically (pdf format) the next printing. If you like to get the paper version, please do not worry. I will continue to print it out and

send it in the mail. Please respond only if you wish to receive the newsletter electronically.

MAL Newsletter

Joanne Bedlek-Anslow

MAL National Coordinator, ΙΣΠ

Richland Northeast High School

7500 Brookfield Road

Columbia, SC 29223

Iota Sigma Pi

National Honor Society for

Women in Chemistry

